

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of January 8 - January 12, 2007**

1. Office Closings: Due to elevator construction, City offices - including the Computer Learning Center and the Community Center - will be closed Saturday, January 13th and Sunday, January 14th. The City will also be closed on Monday, January 15th, including the Takoma Park Maryland Library, to observe the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. The Police Department is open at all times. During construction, visitors should use the Grant Avenue entrance to access the main lobby of the Police Department. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

2. Ward 5 Special Election Candidates: Three candidates have submitted petitions to place their names on the ballot for the Ward 5 special election: Alexandra Quere Barrionuevo, Eric Hensal, and Reuben Snipper. All petitions have been validated. Staff will be mailing a sample ballot to all registered voters in Ward 5. (*City Clerk*)

3. Tree Planting (Ward 2): City Arborist Todd Bolton and in-house staff planted 7 trees (oak, dogwood and maples) in Prince George's Triangle (at New Hampshire service road) Friday. These trees were grown in the nursery at the Public Works yard for 2 years. (*Public Works*)

4. Green Building Conference (City-wide): Housing and Community Development is offering a green building conference for homeowners and contractors to learn and share information about green building. The conference will be on February 18th from 11 AM to 5 PM. John Spears of Sustainable Design Group, Inc. will be the keynote speaker at 11 AM. Registration is \$5 with an additional \$10 for lunch (prior to Feb. 12) through the Recreation Department. For more information, go to "Upcoming Events" at www.takomaparkmd.gov or call Ilona Blanchard at (301) 891-7205. (*Housing and Community Development*)

5. Enterprise Zone Business Meeting (Wards 2, 3, & 6): The latest Takoma Park Enterprise Zone Business Meeting attracted business owners from throughout the City's section of the Takoma Langley Crossroads. Business and property owners were given up-to-date details from SHA Traffic Engineers on the road construction currently underway on New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard. (*Housing and Community Development*)

6. Main Street Takoma Consumer Survey (City-Wide): The Economic Restructuring Committee of Main Street Takoma is accepting responses for its consumer survey for only two more weeks. The survey will be used to help economic development activities, set priorities, and provide data for outreach activities from Takoma Junction to 4th Street, DC. This quick survey has only 24 questions and may be accessed online at: <http://www.AdvancedSurvey.com/default.asp?SurveyID=41565>. For more information, please contact Roz Grisby at (240) 253-4229. (*Housing and Community Development*)

7. Art in Public Places Forum (City-wide): Jose Dominguez, Chair of the Arts and Humanities Commission, facilitated a discussion of the opportunities for "Arts in Public Spaces" at a forum hosted by the Old Town Business Association. The January 9th event featured presentations by representatives from the Barracks Row Main Street program, the DC Commission on the Arts, Downtown DC, Montgomery County's Public Arts Trust, and Arts on the Block. The event was well attended with roughly 25 artists,

AHC Commissioners, business representatives, and community residents in attendance. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. Poetry Reading - Thursday, January 18 (City-wide): The Arts and Humanities Commission's monthly poetry reading series, hosted by Poet Laureate Don Berger, continues this month with a reading at the Community Center on Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 pm. Featured poets are Rhonda Williford and Maria Mazzenga. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. Community Land Trust Seminar (City-wide): HCD staff attended a seminar on Community Land Trusts (CLT) organized by the Washington Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, serving as a facilitator for one of the later breakout sessions. The seminar, held on January 9th, featured speakers from the Champlian Housing Trust (Burlington VT), City First Enterprises, New Columbia CLT, and Diamond State CLT (Delaware), who provided a wealth of information on the impact of community land trusts on the affordable housing. The information gathered at this event will assist staff as it evaluates various options for providing and preserving affordable housing in the community. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. Atrium Gallery Exhibit (City-wide): This month's exhibit, sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Commission, features the work of children (ages 2 - 12) participating in Abrakadoodle, one of the arts programs offered at the Community Center. The exhibit can be viewed throughout the month of January. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. MLK Holiday Event: City TV staff will be covering the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday event being held Friday January 12th at the Takoma Park Middle School. *(City TV)*

12. New and Improved: The main page of the City website has been reorganized; please visit www.takomaparkmd.gov to take a look. *(City TV)*

13. Snapshots: The January Snapshots is now running on City TV and will be posted to the City website soon. Segments include: Community Oriented Policing --Tour of the New Police Department; Stop for Santa in the Crosswalk (pedestrian safety at Takoma-Langley Crossroads); and Your Vote Counts: An Introduction to Instant Runoff Voting. *(City TV)*

14. Online Book Club: Book lovers may now participate in an online book club sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Located at the Library web site (www.takomapark.info/library), "Dear Reader" is a set of online book clubs that enables readers to sample a variety of books in different categories: Fiction, business, mystery, non fiction, romance, audio, teen, science fiction and pre-publication titles. Subscribers simply enter an e-mail address and choose from as many of the categories as they wish. Each day they are sent a five minute portion of the book selection for that week. During the week readers have an opportunity to sample the first few chapters. If they want to read further, they can look for the book at the Takoma Park Library, another library, or a local bookseller. This is a great way to introduce yourself to the work of many different authors! *(Library)*

15. Friends Reading Group discusses “*The Grapes of Wrath*”: The Friends of the Library invites all interested readers to participate in an informal discussion of *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, to be held on Tuesday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m. on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center. Multiple copies of *The Grapes of Wrath* are available at the Library, provided by the Friends. For more information, contact the Library or check out the Friends website at www.ftpml.org. (Library)

16. Dungeons & Dragons Intro!: An introduction to this interactive game for children, parents and educators will be given by Dave Burbank at the Library on January 22nd. At 7:30 p.m. (Library)

17. Resignation: Dispatcher Dail Fuller has resigned his full time position to take employment elsewhere. He has agreed to work on a part-time, as needed basis, to fill-in evening and weekend hours. (Police)

18. Officers in Training: Three detectives attended training on DNA evidence collection, three sergeants attended a variety of training sessions on *Delegation, Documentation, Discipline and Team Building*, and three officers attended training on *Threat Assessments in Schools*. (Police)

19. Crime in the City (Ward 5): Sgt. Gilbert and A/Lt. Collington attended a meeting of the Longbranch Business League in which crime issues in the area of Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road were discussed. (Police)